



# ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

Bringing Together Regional Corporation Presidents and CEOs

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July 10, 2019

An open letter from the ANCSA Regional Association:

The ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) represents the Presidents and CEOs of the 12 land-based Alaska Native Regional Corporations created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). ARA's mission is to promote and foster the continued growth and economic strength of the Alaska Native Regional Corporations on behalf of our more than 130,000 shareholders. Our corporations and the Alaska Native people we represent could not be more invested in the future of Alaska.

These are trying times for our great state, and we appreciate the commitment of our Legislature to all Alaskans and our communities. ARA members have reviewed and discussed the list of budget vetoes to HB39, HB40, and the FY20 Operating Budget; and are writing to express concern for the potential harm the proposed cuts will cause to the state's economy. ARA has long supported and advocated for securing a stable financial future for Alaska; however, the drastic cuts as proposed will plunge Alaska into a fiscal and social crisis.

Alaska Native Regional Corporations are united in our position that we do not support this level of proposed budget cuts. This position is not taken lightly, requiring significant deliberation and discussion among our membership, and we collectively want to see our Legislature work cooperatively with our Governor. There will be further discussions about the state's budget for FY20 and beyond; and we expect those discussions will result in state budget reductions. Cuts are necessary, but cannot disproportionately impact rural Alaska.

We call upon the Legislature to restore the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) funds. If PCE dollars are not restored, power costs in rural Alaska will result in large-scale outmigration that will put further social, behavioral, educational and health and safety strains on our urban communities. It will also have a catastrophic effect on our rural way of life and lead to an unprecedented loss of our Alaska Native cultures.

We ask for leadership in standing up for Alaska. Alaska's citizens, both urban and rural, cannot sustain such drastic cuts in essential services. If you have questions, please contact us through Kim Reitmeier at: [kim@ancregional.com](mailto:kim@ancregional.com).

Sincerely,  
ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION



Aaron Schutt  
Chair



Kim Reitmeier  
Executive Director